March 3, 2021

Employee of the month campaign

CAT has a new “Cattitude Employee of the Month” program and we want to invite you to nominate a coworker you think has earned the title.

Under the program, two employees will be selected every month. One employee will be from the Operations Department, which includes both maintenance staff and operators. In addition a separate winner will be selected from Administration Department, which will include salary, hourly and ferry employees. (Chiefs are ineligible and employees cannot nominate themselves.) The winners receive an extra day off.

Nomination forms can be picked up in the breakrooms or from a department head. Just fill them out and submit them by depositing them in the entry box set up in the breakrooms. You can also give them to a department head or email them to cattitude@catchacat.org.

The winners will be selected by the Employee of the Month Committee and the chosen employees will be announced the last Friday in every month. The first winners will be announced March 5 for the month of February.

Congratulations to the 2020 Employee of the year recipients!

Courtney Wingster
Fixed-route operator of the year

Linda Shavers-
McGriff
Paratransit operator of the year

Gerald “Tony” Lewis
Supervisor of the year

Corey Quay
Maintenance employee of the year

Kimberly Miller
Administrative employee of the year

Condolences to CAT Board Chairman Deidrick Cody

The CAT family would like to extend our heartfelt condolences to CAT Board Chairman Deidrick Cody, following the death on Feb. 25 of his mother Rosetta Bryant Cody.

Rosetta Cody was a former Garden City Council member who served on the council from 2012 through 2019. Please keep Chairman Cody and his family lifted up with prayers of strength, comfort and peace as they mourn the loss of their loved one during this difficult time.
Preventable accidents can extend beyond the typical motor vehicle accidents. Have you ever considered all of the tripping hazards you may encounter daily? Whether walking across the parking lot on uneven pavement or getting on a bus without using handrails, the ole “trip monster” is lurking around every corner. You can slip when you lose your footing, you can trip when you catch your foot on something, and you fall when you come down suddenly. Spills, ice, snow, rain, loose mats, rugs, and stepladders are some of the common causes of slips, trips and falls. In addition, poor lighting and clutter can cause injuries such as sprains, strains, bruises, bumps, fractures, scratches and cuts. And in addition to pain, suffering and occasional embarrassment, slips and falls can be quite costly. For example, CAT is currently handling two slip and fall claims. These claims are costing the agency approximately $94,400! And, this amount excludes pain and suffering, which could linger long after the slip and fall. Remember, these claims can include operators, mechanics, staff members and passengers. Therefore, it is extremely important that we all pay attention to our surroundings as we focus on injury prevention.

Public transportation fall risks such as traffic pathways, stairs, crowds, lighting or noise can impact safety. Fall hazards directly related to transit are listed below:

- Steps can be challenging for people with balance problems, poor vision or a fear of falling. A step is almost always necessary between a vehicle and the sidewalk. Steps become problematic if they are too high, lack handrails or have unmarked edges.
- Frequent or sudden stops or starts can be difficult for an older adult with balance issues. A sudden lurch in the vehicle can cause an individual to lose footing.
- Slippery surfaces due to winter weather or rain any time of the year reduce traction or friction between the shoe and the ground, increasing the potential for an individual to lose balance.
- Crowded vehicles may not have enough seating or available handrails or straps for individuals to grab for support, which are essential when a vehicle is making frequent stops. Reserved seating for seniors and people with disabilities may not always be available during peak ridership.
- Personal items in the aisle may create a fall hazard for riders as they move to a vacant seat.
- Dark interiors are hazardous, especially at night. Adequate lighting can help make the above risks more visible and is especially important for individuals with diminished vision.

In an effort to paint a clearer, yet broader picture, nationally, over 50% of passenger injuries are related to slip and falls. The National Public Service Vehicle (PSV) Accident Survey showed that about 57% of bus passenger injuries were the result of falls and other incidents that occurred under normal conditions. Most of those injuries were the result of falls getting on or off the vehicle or while the vehicle is moving. Only 14% of injuries were the result of collisions.

As we continue to navigate through the COVID-19 pandemic, let us not lose sight on other safety precautions. Yep, you have heard it before... “An ounce of prevention is worth more than a pound of cure.” Be careful out there!

A reminder from AFLAC

AFLAC is like your major medical insurance. You can only make changes one time a year and that is during Open Enrollment. The only time, outside of Open Enrollment, where you can make a change is if you have a Qualifying Event such as:

- A change in your legal marital status (such as marriage, legal separation, annulment, divorce, or death of your Spouse);
- A change in the number of your tax Dependents (such as the birth of a child, adoption or placement for adoption of a Dependent, or death of a Dependent);
- An event that causes your Dependent to satisfy or cease to satisfy an eligibility requirement for a particular benefit (such as attaining a specified age, getting married, or ceasing to be a student).

As with these qualifying events, documentation must be provided to AFLAC that you meet the requirements.